

# BROWNFIELDS QUARTERLY COMMUNITY REPORT

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- **New Showcase Communities**
- **Brownfields Conference**
- **Transportation & Brownfields**
- **Brownfields Initiative Recognized**
- **Brownfields Grants Awarded**

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## Hudson County, New Jersey

**- brownfields pilot supports environmental restoration and economic growth**

Like many areas of the northeast, for years the economy in Hudson County, New Jersey developed on a strong manufacturing base. As that base declined, so too did jobs, and without jobs the buildings that once housed the manufacturing operations became obsolete and were abandoned. This proliferation of abandoned properties contributed to the overall decline in the densely populated areas throughout the county. The dream of both government officials and the residents of several small communities most affected by this decline, has been to see the area revitalized and the economy rejuvenated.



County Executive Janiszewski and Kearny Mayor Santos join the Hudson County Brownfields Task Force at a Pilot site on Schuyler Avenue in Kearny, NJ.

hopes to bridge the gap between its larger communities, which are better able to support planning and redevelopment, and the smaller townships that may not have the manpower or resources to do so.

The Hudson County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC) serves as the lead agency for the project. The Corporation's role includes assisting the

municipalities in identifying and leveraging funding and other resources for site remediation, and developing programs for continued support to the municipalities. "This project represents the portion of the county that has a tremendous

### Funds Help Communities Unite

In an effort to realize their dreams, Hudson County communities have united to reclaim brownfields properties that have been lying vacant for some time. Hudson County is working under a two-year EPA \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot award – with an additional \$200,000 in supplemental funding (which includes \$50,000 specifically for greenspace preservation) and another \$500,000 over five years from the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. With these funds, Hudson County

of brownfields sites that have redevelopment potential," notes Elizabeth Spinelli, Executive Director of the HCEDC. Hudson County's 46.6 square miles are home to nearly 650 brownfields properties. She feels these sites have a lot to offer developers because of extensive infrastructure and desirable proximity to New York City.

Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski points out that brownfields sites represent the only available land in

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# Brownfields Initiative Recognized for Excellence

EPA's Brownfields Initiative recently received two prestigious awards: the Hammer Award and the Innovations in American Government Award.

## Recognizing the Program

The Innovations in American Government Award is the highest award given to honor government programs that have best served the public. Funded by the Ford Foundation and administered by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government, the award program brings national attention to the quality and responsiveness of American government and encourages the replication of innovative approaches in meeting the challenges facing government today. This distinguished awards program solicits nominations from federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments that have developed innovative approaches to important public issues. As one of 1,300 applicants, the Brownfields initiative

went through an exhaustive review process that included extensive analysis and scrutiny of the program's benefits, as well as an onsite visit from an independent consultant, before being selected as a winner.

On behalf of all brownfields participants, former EPA Assistant Administrator Timothy Fields, Jr. accepted the \$100,000 grant associated with the award. "The strong partnership forged by the Brownfields Program is recognized today, and that partnership deserves credit for this honor. Through this program, the EPA will continue to make our communities across the country healthier, cleaner places for all Americans to live and work," he noted.

## Recognizing the People

The Hammer Award is part of former Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government. It honors federal employees who make significant contributions in support of reinventing

government principles. The employees of the Brownfields initiative were recognized specifically for helping open the private sector marketplace to thousands of acres of land that were once regarded as blighted and deemed without value.

Learning of the award, former EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner said, "The Brownfields Program is a national model for restoring and revitalizing blighted industrial and commercial properties. The driving force behind creating a successful program like this is largely due to the diligent efforts of the dedicated EPA employees being recognized today."

## Making a Difference

Since its creation in 1993, the Brownfields Initiative has awarded over 500 grants totaling more than \$140 million to communities nationwide. These grants have resulted in the creation of nearly 7,000 new jobs and have leveraged in excess of \$2.3 billion in private investment. I

# New York State Brownfields Pilots Quarterly Roundtable Meeting

EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have been co-hosting the Quarterly Brownfields Roundtable Meeting, which is facilitated by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Open only to New York State brownfields pilots, state and federal agencies, the representatives from the pilot communities share information about their strategies and accomplishments. Speakers are often invited to the meetings to give infor-

mational presentations.

Aided by EPA, the pilot communities set the agenda for each meeting based on issues raised at the previous meeting and by the priorities defined by each pilot. Typical topics for discussion include long-term funding, regulatory issues, reporting requirements, and private development. Private site issues will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. These meetings also provide a forum for various agencies to pre-

sent useful information about programs or issues relevant to the pilot grantees.

These quarterly meetings are proving to be very beneficial in uniting the pilot communities. According to Mark Gregor, Manager of the Division of Environmental Quality for the City of Rochester, New York, "The EPA's brownfields roundtable meetings provide a needed forum for pilot municipalities in New York to help each other establish and fine tune our brownfields programs. Brownfields projects are so dynamic and multifaceted that I always learn something new from other practitioners, especially those trying to do projects in New York State." I

# Yonkers, New York

*- rebuilding an historic waterfront and renewing a city's potential*

The historic waterfront district in Yonkers, New York longs to return to its glory days when the hustle and bustle of business along the Hudson River meant economic prosperity for those living and working there. To realize this dream, the city has undertaken ambitious projects to revitalize its downtown waterfront, creating a unique urban environment that is fast becoming home to retailers, restaurants, offices, and residential units.

Like many other industrial cities in the northeast, Yonkers experienced a decline in both its tax and job base over the past 30 years. The Hudson River waterfront, once a thriving port responsible for much of the city's growth and development, has become an underutilized area separated from the rest of the city. With no undeveloped land remaining, Yonkers identified its waterfront as the cornerstone to its economic growth. Based on this, the city developed a comprehensive plan that focuses on preservation, reuse, and redevelopment along the river and considers the need for road improvements to link the area to the rest of the city.

## Grant Supports Redevelopment Efforts

In October 1998, the City of Yonkers was awarded an EPA \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot grant to support the Alexander Street Waterfront (ASW) initiative. This initiative is building on the success of the adjacent Downtown Waterfront efforts that began prior to the pilot grant being awarded.

The Yonkers riverfront borders the southwestern portion of the city and represents the area hardest hit by unemployment, poverty, and urban distress. Although Southwest Yonkers represents only 17 percent of the total land area of the city, it has 37 percent of the housing and 40 percent of the population. Beginning in 1996, using both public and private funds, Yonkers began fo-

cusing on a turnaround of Main Street and the Downtown Waterfront area starting with its historic Municipal Pier. Thanks to the brownfields pilot grant, the city is extending the redevelopment momentum further north along the river to the Alexander Street Waterfront.

## The Alexander Street Waterfront (ASW)

The ASW runs north from the Downtown Waterfront and includes 17 parcels covering approximately 25 acres of underutilized industrial and manufacturing sites. Selected for the pilot because of its high potential for reuse and because it is easily accessible by rail, water, and roads, the area also has an available local workforce and

is a natural continuation of the Yonkers Downtown Waterfront revitalization efforts. The city's brownfields coordinator Paul T. Casson notes, "We approach these projects as a cohesive whole. The EPA pilot grant and the subsequent reuse of the Alexander Street Waterfront present tremendous opportunity to capitalize on the redevelopment taking place in the immediate Downtown Waterfront area."



An artist's rendering of the renewal of the historic Gazette Building in the downtown waterfront area.

From the start, the ASW initiative has been approached in its entirety and has involved all stakeholders in the site assessment and redevelopment process. An aggressive community involvement program ensures that all members of the affected communities are actively involved in decision making related to the reuse of the ASW brownfields sites.

## Noted Architect Gets Involved

Maya Ying Lin, the architect who designed the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., did the architectural design for a building that will soon be home to a bakery opened by the Greyston Foundation. The bakery will employ residents and hard to place candidates referred by social service programs. In addition to creat-

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# \$35 Million in Brownfields Grants Awarded

... Recipients Include EPA Region 2 Communities

When it was announced in May 2000 that \$35 million in grants would go to 102 communities across the country to assess and clean up brownfields sites and return them to economically thriving community hubs, EPA Region 2 communities were among those in competition for this funding. Many of these communities were awarded grants.

## Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grants

Nine Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot grants totaling more than \$1.8 million were awarded in May 2000 to help Region 2 communities evaluate the environmental contamination of brownfields sites. Each Assessment Demonstration Pilot is funded up to \$200,000 over two years to select and assess brownfields sites and to spur cleanup and redevelopment models. State and local officials use the grants to compile information that will then be used to attract potential developers.

Including the new pilots, a total of 43 Assessment Pilot Grants have been awarded in Region 2 since 1995. This year's assessment grants also included provisions to assess contamination on sites that are or will be used for greenspace purposes which could include areas for parks, playgrounds, gardens, trails, habitat restoration, and simply open space. In New York, Syracuse and Troy each received an additional \$50,000 for assessment of greenspace use.

## Showcase Communities

Several Assessment Demonstration Pilots have also been designated Brownfields Showcase Communities. Selected on a competitive basis, Brownfields Showcase Communities are recognized for their innovative and successful approaches to addressing complex brownfields problems and are expected to serve as role models for other communities facing similar situations. Each Showcase Community receives an additional \$200,000 and a wide range of technical assistance intended to link Federal, State, local and private sector action in the redevelopment of brownfields. Showcase communities also are provided with a federal government employee who will work on brownfields issues for two years.

The following are Showcase Communities in Region 2:

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Trenton, NJ	March 1998
Glen Cove, NY	March 1998
Niagara Region, NY	October 2000

The Niagara Region Showcase Community includes the following communities: Niagara County, Erie County and the Cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

## Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Pilots

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grants allow communities to establish revolving loan funds to provide businesses with low-interest loans for the cleanup and development of brownfields sites. As part of this program, funding has been awarded to pilots in Region 2:

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hudson Co, NJ	May 1999	\$500,000
Trenton, NJ	Sept 1997/May 2000	\$1,000,000
Niagara Co., NY	May 1999	\$1,000,000
Rochester, NY	Sept 1997	\$500,000
Yonkers, NY	May 1999	\$500,000

## Job Training Grants

In addition to the other grants, Region 2 communities have also received Job Training and Development grants valued up to \$200,000, for the implementation of environmental job training programs. This funding is for the creation of workforce development programs in Assessment Pilot communities. The funding is used to teach job skills in the field of environmental cleanup to individuals living in low income areas near brownfields sites. The applicants use local resources to place those successfully completing the training program in careers with environmental firms and organizations.

A total of five Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots Assessment Pilot grants have been awarded in Region 2:

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
New Jersey Youth Corps (Camden & Newark), NJ	Aug 1998
New Jersey Youth Corps (Phillipsburg & Middlesex Co.), NJ	Sep 2000
State University of New York (Buffalo & Niagara County, NY)	Sep 2000
Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, Inc., NY (Troy, NY)	Dec 2000
Universidad Metropolitana, PR (Cantera Peninsula, San Juan, PR)	May 1999

## EPA Region 2 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots



### New Jersey Pilot

Atlantic City	Sept 1998
Camden	Sept 1996
Elizabeth	Sept 1997
Essex County	Sept 2000
Gloucester	Sept 2000
Hackensack Meadowlands District	Sept 1999
Hudson County	Sept 1998
Jersey City	Sept 1997
Long Branch	Sept 1998
Middlesex County	Sept 1998
Morris County (Rockaway River)	Sept 1998
Newark	Sept 1996
Orange Township	Sept 1999
Paterson	Sept 1998
Pennsauken Township	Sept 2000
Perth Amboy	Sept 1997
Phillipsburg	Sept 1999
Somerset County	Sept 2000
Trenton	Sept 1995
Union County	Sept 2000

### Date Awarded

### New York Pilot

Albany	Sept 1999
Buffalo	Sept 1995
Elmira	Sept 1997
Glen Cove	Sept 1997
Glens Falls	Sept 2000
Johnstown	Sept 1999
New York City	Sept 1996
Niagara County	Sept 1998
Niagara Falls	Sept 1997
North Hempstead	Sept 2000
Ogdensburg	Sept 1998
Rochester	Sept 1995
Rome	Sept 1996
Schenectady	Sept 1999
Seneca Nation	Sept 1999
Syracuse	Sept 2000
Troy	Sept 2000
Ulster County	Sept 1998
Utica	Sept 1998
Watertown	Sept 1999
Yonkers	Sept 1998

### Date Awarded

### Puerto Rico Pilot

Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, PR	Sept 1997
Puerto Rico Ports Authority	Sept 1998

### Date Awarded

Sept 1997
Sept 1998



# EPA Selects 12 Showcase Communities

It was appropriate that former EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner chose the Brownfields 2000 conference to announce the selection of 12 new Brownfields Showcase Communities. While addressing the conference attendees, Browner noted that, "The selection of these new showcase communities will help foster the cleanup of abandoned contaminated properties, while also bringing new jobs and new economic opportunities to these communities." This marked the second round of Showcase Communities. The first round, announced in March 1998, resulted in more than \$900 million in cleanup and economic redevelopment funds, assessment of 536 properties, and generation of 2,716 new jobs.

The Showcase Communities, selected by a panel of federal agencies on a competitive basis, will each receive up to \$200,000 for environmental cleanup assessments and \$200,000 to support use of a federal employee to work with the community for a period of two years. Additional financial and technical assistance is available for the Showcase Communities from a wide range of

federal programs depending on the particular needs of each community.

The Showcase Communities program is at the heart of the Brownfields National Partnership, which brings together more than 20 federal agencies to enable communities to revitalize brownfields sites. These Showcase Communities will serve as models for other communities to develop cooperative programs for the cleanup and reuse of contaminated properties.

The new Showcase Communities are:

- Niagara Region, New York
- Cape Charles, Virginia
- Jackson, Mississippi
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Houston, Texas
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Denver, Colorado
- Gila River Indian Community, Arizona
- Metlakatla, Alaska
- New Bedford, Massachusetts
- Mystic Valley Development Commission (Everett, Malden, & Medford), Massachusetts

The Niagara Region of New York includes the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, the counties of Niagara and Erie, and the State University of Buffalo. These areas have formed a unique regional collaboration targeting several large areas to reverse declining economic conditions through brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. As a Showcase Community, the Niagara Region expects to link brownfields activities to the economic, social, and ecological restoration of the Niagara River, Buffalo River, and Eighteen Mile Creek watersheds.

The Niagara Region joins Glen Cove, New York and Trenton, New Jersey as the third Showcase Community within EPA Region 2.†

For more information about Showcase Communities, visit EPA's Brownfield Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/showcase.htm>

## Annual Brownfields Conference

### Brownfields 2000 Conference

Last October, the annual national Brownfields conference was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The theme for Brownfields 2000, *Research & Regionalism: Revitalizing the American Community*, was derived from the idea that through research and the process of collecting and sharing information, lessons can be learned from the experiences of others. Regionalism is a

reminder that brownfields redevelopment does not happen in isolation; rather it influences the areas in which brownfields sites exist. And finally, that community needs and objectives strengthen the brownfields development process, ensuring a *win-win* situation for all involved.

The Brownfields conference has grown in both size and scope over the past four years – going from 500 attendees in 1996 to more than

3,000 in 2000; from three co-sponsors to more than 20; and from a few topics to multiple sessions covering all aspects of brownfields revitalization, making it the nation's premier event for brownfields issues.

Gathering in Atlantic City to tackle the issues head on was a diverse group of federal, state, and local government officials, members of community organizations, developers, bankers, insurers, environmental

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## Federal Partner Profiles

### Federal Home Loan Bank - a resource for brownfields redevelopment

Mandated to promote affordable housing and community development, the Federal Home Loan Bank system is a resource for financing brownfields redevelopment. While the system has no official "brownfields program", many redevelopment projects are eligible for FHL financing, particularly small to medium project which benefit low-income communities.

#### The Federal Home Loan Bank System

Created by Congress in 1932, the FHL Bank is a private sector enterprise made up of 12 member banks

regulated by the Federal Housing Finance Board. These banks are located across the country and provide long-term, fixed rate financing to more than 6,500 member finan-

*The key to obtaining more financing for brownfields activities through FHL Banks, is to link the small-to-medium sized projects with local lending institutions that are Home Loan Bank members.*

cial institutions, which in turn, provide competitively priced financing for affordable housing and community investment. Subsidies from the

system's Affordable Housing Program (AHP) and reduced-rate loans from the Community Investment Program (CIP) also help institutions provide financing for a range of projects for low-to-moderate income families.

"The brownfields issue is moving from a planning and theoretical activity to the implementation of a local community initiative," says Donald J. Wolff, Senior Vice President of Community Investment with the FHL Bank of New York. It is at the local level that FHL Bank gets involved through housing or community investment financing offered by local lenders.

According to Wolff, the FHL Bank realizes that it has been financing

*(Continued on page 11)*

### Department of Transportation Supports Brownfields Redevelopment

For more than a decade, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) policy emphasized avoidance of contaminated properties. That policy was revised two years ago to support the President's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative. Today, DOT not only encourages states and localities to consider brownfields redevelopment as part of their transportation planning process, but has also pledged support through the administration of the department's financial and technical assistance programs.

"Transportation should play an active role, working in partnership with communities, to redevelop brownfields wherever it makes sense to do so," said former DOT Secretary Rodney E. Slater when he

first announced the policy change. He added that in addition to using brownfields for transportation needs, states and localities should ensure that sites slated for redevelopment are well served when configuring transportation systems. While DOT does not provide funding specifically for brownfields rede-

*"Transportation should play an active role, working in partnership with communities, to redevelop brownfields wherever it makes sense to do so."*

*Rodney E. Slater, former Secretary  
Department of Transportation*

velopment, its new approach allows communities to use DOT funding to coordinate between transportation projects and brownfields redevelopment.

It was no accident that Slater made his announcement in Lowell, Massachusetts. The City of Lowell had received nearly \$9.2 million through DOT's Federal Lands Highway Program and its Transportation Enhancement Program. The funds were used to improve public access – especially for the disabled – along the Western Canal Walkway and to re-establish the historic landscape of a park. Slater noted that he hoped to see this type of partnership repeated across the country.

It was nearly two years ago when DOT launched the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) program to fund state and local pilot projects focusing on the integration of transportation

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# Hudson County (continued)

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Hudson County that can still be developed. “We are committed to cleaning up these sites, if in fact they need to be cleaned, and ensuring they can be used again by this community,” he explains. The partnering communities, each of which has created a Conceptual Revitalization Plan to guide site investigation and cleanup activities, are:

- Bayonne
- Guttenberg
- Kearny
- Weehawken
- Hoboken
- Harrison
- North Bergen
- West New York

The county has received significant funding to support brownfields reclamation; according to Janiszewski, the total from all sources is nearly \$1.3 million. “With the lion’s share of this money coming from sources other than Hudson County, we can meet our goal with minimal burden to our taxpayers. We can invest in our neighborhoods, develop land which can bring revenue to our municipalities, and we can continue to improve the face of Hudson County at the same time.”

## Focus on Redevelopment

The Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot program is helping the eight communities inventory their respective brownfields properties, evaluate and prioritize sites based on their reuse potential, and then clarify environmental issues on the prioritized sites to encourage redevelopment. To support this process, the county created a database listing all available and viable industrial and commercial properties within its boundaries and included information about the environmental condition of each brownfields property.

## County Guides Redevelopment Activities

To guide the pilot activities, the county organized a stakeholder’s

*“We can invest in our neighborhoods, develop land which can bring revenue to our municipalities, and we can continue to improve the face of Hudson County at the same time.”*

*... Robert C. Janiszewski  
Hudson County Executive*

group consisting of representatives from each mayor’s office and from other local government agencies, including the Hudson County Executive’s Office and the Hudson County Public Health Office, along with financial institutions, academia, developers and community organizations. The group meets monthly to discuss the progress of their joint endeavor and to identify available resources.

In addition, officials from Hudson County and each pilot city, assisted by the EPA-supported North East Hazardous Substance Research Center and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, sponsored informational meetings specifically for property owners. These meetings provided a forum for the property owners to discuss their concerns and for the state to respond to questions. Topics discussed included:

- Environmental investigations and cleanup requirements
- New Jersey’s Voluntary Cleanup Program
- Financial assistance and incentives

## Environmental and Economic Well Being

The county’s goal is to help local brownfields property owners realize the full potential of their properties and to maximize the properties’ contribution to the county’s environmental and economic well-being. With sites being assessed, public meetings being held, and potential

developers being sought, Hudson County communities are making great strides. Three redevelopment plans have already been finalized, which include an extended stay Hyatt Hotel in Harrison and a pocket park and senior housing in Kearney.

## Green Space Benefits Community

The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, an 18-mile-long pedestrian corridor, is the centerpiece of the greenspace development activities that will link waterfront communities. The half-completed walkway, which winds through nine municipalities in two counties, will provide recreational opportunities to area residents. EPA funding assistance will support the necessary environmental assessments, which will expedite the acquisition, and construction phases of the project. With assistance from EPA, it is anticipated that the entire walkway project will be completed in five years, adding 65 acres of greenspace to benefit the local communities.

## Recognizing Success and Realizing a Vision

Those associated with the pilot program believe it is proving successful, so county residents and officials were pleased when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recognized the pilot with an Environmental Excellence Award for Open and Effective Government.

As a result of these pilot programs and the efforts of the communities and officials involved, the county’s vision for economic growth, environmental restoration, and an improved quality of life for its residents is closer to becoming a reality. Perhaps U.S. Representative Robert Menendez summarized the Hudson County vision best by saying, “Our industrial past is part of our history and our potential, and we need to capitalize on our location in a global economy.”



## Yonkers (continued)

ing jobs, the bakery facility will provide a community meeting space.

### Revitalizing the Entire Waterfront Area

The City of Yonkers has secured more than \$100 million from federal, state, county, and city government. These funds have been directed toward revitalizing the entire Hudson River waterfront area, including:

- Pier restoration: \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development special purpose grant funds
- Construction of a Parking Garage: \$17.2 million in Multi-Modal and Federal Highway Administration funds
- Streetscape improvements: \$10 million from the New York State Department of Transportation
- A mile-long waterfront esplanade and park: \$15 million from Westchester County

*"The EPA pilot grant and the subsequent reuse of the Alexander Street Waterfront present tremendous opportunity to capitalize on the redevelopment taking place in the immediate Downtown Waterfront area."*

*... Paul T. Casson, Brownfields Coordinator, City of Yonkers*

There are also plans for a 134-slip marina, a visiting ship pier, ferry service to Manhattan, and restaurants, shops, and environmental educational programs.

### Other Improvements

Main Street, which serves as the entrance to the Downtown Waterfront area, is another site undergoing transformation. Restoration of the historic Gazette Building, streetscape improvements, and business facade changes that have uncovered architectural details of years gone by have made a noticeable improvement to the area. Yonkers native Richard Haas, known worldwide for his murals, has depicted scenes from the city's early years on the Main Street approach to the waterfront. These efforts, along with those associated

with the ASW initiative, are fostering excitement and anticipation among city officials as well as the community at large.

### Tearing Down Barriers

The City of Yonkers has worked with the community to develop a reuse plan that promotes job and economic growth, and that maximizes public access to the waterfront through road improvements. Extensive planning, adequate funding, and encouraging community involvement are viewed as the means for removing the barriers that, in the past, prevented Southwest Yonkers from reaching its full potential as a thriving port city. According to the Yonker's Webpage, *You'll be surprised at the improvements that have been made.* ¶

## Pilot Profile Contacts

### Hudson County, New Jersey

For more information on Hudson County redevelopment activities, contact Elizabeth Spinelli of the Hudson County Economic Development Corporation at (201) 432-4222.

### Yonkers, New York

For more information about the Yonkers Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot Project and redevelopment of the historic waterfront area, contact Paul Casson at the Office of Downtown & Waterfront Development for the City of Yonkers at (914) 377-6080.

***For additional information contact the  
EPA Pilot Manager Chelsea Albucher at (212) 637-4291.***

# Annual Brownfields Conference

## (continued)

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consultants, nonprofit foundations, and others with an interest in cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields properties. Presented by the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, and co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, EPA, and 18 other agencies and organizations, the workshops were organized to six basic tracks:

- Brownfields Fundamentals
- The Three E's: Economics, Environment, and Equity (E<sup>3</sup>)
- Creating Value and the Future Use
- Former Uses and Managing Liability and Risk
- Marketplace of Ideas
- Lessons from the Field

In addition, there were 125 exhibitors, a multitude of speakers and informative poster sessions, and a bus tour of redevelopment and

brownfields sites in Atlantic City. "I find that attending the annual conference is important because of the breadth of topics and range of perspectives that can be found in

*The Brownfields conference has grown in both size and scope over the past 4 years – going from 500 attendees in 1996 to more than 3,000 in 2000; from three co-sponsors to more than 20; and from a few topics to multiple sessions covering all aspects of brownfields revitalization, making it the nation's premier event for brownfields issues.*

one place," commented Mark Gregor, Manager of the Division of Environmental Quality for the City of Rochester, New York. "At each conference, I find myself armed with new approaches and ideas that force a constructive re-evaluation of the program we are developing in Rochester. The conference is also an unequalled opportunity to meet my peers and get together with good friends."

Among the high-profile speakers was the Honorable Timothy Fields, Jr., former Assistant Administrator

for Solid Waste and Emergency Response with EPA, who served as master of ceremonies for the opening session. Former EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner used the confer-

ence to announce the selection of 12 new Brownfields Showcase communities. And Jeanne M. Fox, former Regional Administrator for EPA Region 2, was also on hand to address conference participants.

### Brownfields 2001 Conference

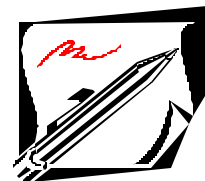
The Brownfields 2001 conference is slated for September 24-26, 2001 at the McCormick Center Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois. It will once again bring together experts from government, the financial and business world, academia, and community organizations, to share ideas and experiences for urban and environmental development. More information about the conference will be available soon. ¶

## BROWNFIELDS 2001 CONFERENCE

September 24-26, 2001, Chicago, Illinois

### Call for Presentation Abstract Papers

#### Deadline April 20, 2001



The sixth annual Brownfields Conference will be held in Chicago on September 24-26, 2001. The Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania is accepting abstracts of proposed presentations from stakeholders working with the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned, idled or under used commercial and industrial sites. Abstract submission guidelines are available on-line at <http://www.brownfields2001.org/> or by calling 412-261-0710 ext. 32.

Frequently check the official conference web site for up to date conference information and links to information about travel scholarships and the Phoenix Awards. <http://www.brownfields2001.org/>

## Federal Home Loan Bank (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

brownfields redevelopment all along. The key to obtaining more financing for brownfields activities through FHL Banks is to link the small-to-medium sized projects with local lending institutions that are Home Loan Bank members. Because the FHL Bank system funnels financing through smaller community banks, it is less likely to finance the larger projects, explains Wolff. Citing a project in Trenton, New Jersey, in which a former electronics manufacturing facility was turned into a senior citizen complex using financing from a FHL Bank, Wolff notes, "Brownfields projects don't always mean large tracts of contaminated land."

### The Affordable Housing Program (AHP)

Congress established the AHP nearly 12 years ago to specifically assist financial institutions in sup-

porting the creation and preservation of housing for lower income families and individuals. AHP grants can be used for a variety of approved purposes, including reducing the interest rate or principal on long-term mortgage financing; paying construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation costs; or covering down payment and closing costs for qualified home buyers.

### The Community Investment Program (CIP)

The CIP provides advances to local lenders so they can make loans to their customers in support of affordable housing and community development projects aimed at low-to-moderate income families and neighborhoods. For example, CIP-financed initiatives might include neighborhood improvements such as volunteer fire departments, public facilities, rental housing, and churches, as well as support ser-

vices like daycare centers and job training facilities. CIP funds may be used for construction loans, rehabilitation or purchase of properties, or in association with other public development programs.

Many of the FHL Banks have addressed specific regional needs through specialized funding programs and partnerships with other financing agencies and institutions. Individual FHL Banks can, at their discretion, encourage local member banks to increase their brownfields lending. They can also help member banks buy tax-exempt bonds that support brownfields redevelopment. f

For more information about the FHLB contact Donald Wolff at (212) 441-6821 or online at <http://www.fhfb.gov/>

## DOT (continued)

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planning, community preservation, and the environment. Under the program, established as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), DOT has authorized \$120 million for the program between 1999-2003 for projects that:

- Improve transportation system efficiency
- Reduce transportation impacts on the environment
- Ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade
- Examine private sector development patterns and identify investments that support these goals

The links between brownfields and transportation are not limited to the TCSP program. The Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) Livable Community Initiative has funded projects aimed at integrating transit systems into communities in ways that fit the communities' needs and character. Projects leverage transit money with other funding to incorporate job training, business incubator programs, daycare facilities, and aesthetic and safety improvements into transit systems across the country.

DOT's brownfields policy and programs recognize that investments in transportation can directly contribute to the sustainability and livability of communities. f

For more information on TEA-21 visit the Federal Highway Administration Webpage at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm>.

For TCSP grant application information, visit the Federal Highway Administration Webpage at <http://tcsp-fhwa.volpe.dot.gov/index.htm> or by calling the Federal Highway Administration Division in your area: New Jersey (609) 637-4200; New York (518) 431-4125 ext. 215; or Puerto Rico (787) 766-5600.

For details about DOT's brownfields policy and integrating brownfields projects with transportation improvements, contact Linda Lawson, Director – Office of Transportation Policy Development (202) 366-4813.

The **Brownfields Quarterly Community Report** welcomes news about local brownfields efforts by community groups and others. If you have a story about what's happening where you are, please contact:

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<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm> or  
our national website at:  
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